

REMARKS

Claims 40-59 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 40, 49 and 58 are independent. Claims 1-39 have been canceled. Claims 40-59 are new.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9, 15-17, 19-27, 30, 31 and 37-39 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Doigan et al. U.S. Patent 5,606,154 ("Doigan") in view of Newville et al. U.S. Patent 6,349,797 ("Newville"). Applicants have canceled original claims 1-39, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

The Office Action also rejects claims 10-14, 16-18, 28, 33, 34 and 39 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Doigan in view of Newville and further in view of Amo U.S. Patent No. 5,844,181 ("Amo"). Applicants have canceled original claims 1-39, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

The Office Action further rejects claim 29 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Doigan in view of Newville and further in view of Yabe et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,132,681 ("Yabe"). Applicants have canceled original claims 1-39, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

The Office Action additionally rejects claims 32, 35 and 36 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Doigan in view of Newville and further in view of Tsuji U.S. Patent No. 4,839,631 ("Tsuji"). Applicants have canceled original claims 1-39, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Conclusion

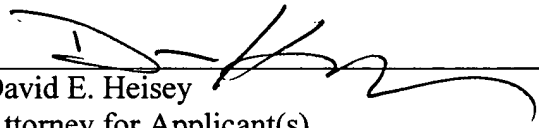
It is respectfully submitted that the application is currently in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss remaining issues, if there are any.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-0683 for any additional fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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